

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 19, 2004. Claims 17 to 23 are pending in the application, with Claims 22 and 23 having been added. Claims 17 and 20 to 22 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 17 was objected to for informalities. The informalities noted in the Office Action have been addressed by amendment as recited above. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct an informality. No new matter has been added.

Claims 17 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,943,650 (Kanno) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,023 (Ono). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns managing software battery information for a client terminal. According to the invention, the client terminal transmits a request (e.g., a battery issue request) to a management apparatus. The management apparatus generates a first key (e.g., a session management key) and display information for displaying an available battery on a list, and transmits the first key and the display information to the client terminal. When the user selects a battery from the list, the client terminal transmits the first key, a second key, the battery selected from the displayed list, and information of remaining amount of a battery to the management apparatus. The management apparatus compares the two keys to see if they match, and if so, issues battery addition information corresponding to the selected battery to the client terminal. The client terminal, upon

receiving the battery addition information, transmits confirmation information of charging of a battery to the management apparatus, which creates log information on the basis of the confirmation information of charging of the battery. As a result, software that utilizes battery information to control the amount of time that the software is used can have the battery charged by requesting the battery addition from the management apparatus.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 17 is a software battery information management apparatus connected to a client terminal via a network, comprising a first key creation means for creating a first key for a session management in response to a request from the client terminal, first transmission means for transmitting the created first key to the client terminal, generating means for generating display information for displaying an available battery on a list, second transmission means for transmitting the generated display information to the client terminal, a first reception means for receiving the first key, a second key, a battery selected from the displayed list, and information of remaining amount of a battery from the client terminal, judging means for judging if the first key matches the second key, battery issuance means for issuing battery addition information corresponding to the selected battery for the client terminal in accordance with the judged result, a second reception means for receiving confirmation information of charging of a battery from the client terminal, and log information creation means for creating log information on the basis of the confirmation information of charging of a battery.

Amended independent Claims 20 and 21 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 17.

Newly-added independent Claim 22 includes features along the lines of

Claim 17, but is more specifically directed to the client terminal. Thus, Claim 22 is a client terminal connected to a software battery information management apparatus through a network, comprising first transmission means, arranged to connect with the software battery information management apparatus to transmit a request thereto, first key receiving means for receiving a first key for session management, generated by the management apparatus in response to the request, receiving means for receiving display information for displaying, on a list, a battery which is available from the software battery information management apparatus, selection means for selecting a desired battery from the displayed list, second transmission means for transmitting the first key, a second key, the selected battery, and battery amount information to the software battery information management apparatus, acquisition means for acquiring battery addition information corresponding to the selected battery in accordance with a result of comparison by the management apparatus of the first and second keys transmitted by the second transmission means, and third transmission means for transmitting battery charge confirmation information to the software battery information management apparatus in response to the acquisition of the battery addition information, wherein the software battery information management apparatus generates log information on the basis of the battery charge confirmation information.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a software battery management apparatus generating display information for displaying an available battery on a list and transmitting the generated display information to a client terminal, receiving,

from the client terminal, a first key, a second key, a battery selected from the displayed list, and information of remaining amount of a battery from the client terminal, and issuing battery addition information corresponding to the selected battery to the client terminal in accordance with a judged result of whether the received first and second keys match.

Kanno is merely seen to disclose issuing battery charge information to a client terminal in accordance with a result of authentication which is based on a serial number recorded on a CD-ROM (see for example Fig. 14). In more detail, a request for a software battery charge for managed software stored on a software distribution disk 18 requires that a serial number be retrieved from charge disk 22 to validate the charge disk 22. The battery charge request, which includes the serial number retrieved from distribution disk 18, is sent to host machine 62 from user machine 10. Thus, Kanno is seen to require a serial number pre-stored on a charge disk (see Figure 2 of Kanno) or a software distribution disk to charge a software battery. In contrast, the present invention generates display information of a list of batteries from which the user selects one, and the selected battery is transmitted to the client terminal to charge the software battery based on the selected battery. Kanno is not seen to disclose anything with regard to displaying the list of available batteries, selecting a battery from the list, and issuing a battery charge corresponding to the selected battery.

Ono is not seen to add anything to overcome Kanno's deficiencies. In this regard, Ono is merely seen to disclose an on-line shopping system in which an order confirmation screen is displayed. However, Ono, like Kanno, is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything with regard to displaying the list of batteries, selecting a battery from the list, and issuing a battery charge. Accordingly, a combination of Kanno and Ono would

not have resulted in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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